



FAC Spotlight: **Finance Cabinet Proceeds with** **Next Steps for** **High-Speed Internet Project**

For almost a year, a dedicated team has been gathering information and determining the best way to proceed with an Internet project that will leapfrog Kentucky ahead of most states and many countries for high-speed Internet connectivity.

Last Friday, Gov. Steve Beshear and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers announced that the Finance Cabinet is issuing two requests for proposals (RFP) this month seeking a public-private partnership (P3) project that will build out more than 3,000 of "middle mile" fiber infrastructure to the farthest reaches of the Commonwealth. This is the next step in the project, originally announced in January.

Dubbed the Next Generation Kentucky Information Highway (NGKIH), this project is viewed as the most important infrastructure project since previous generations' efforts to build sewer and water systems, the electric grid and paved highways.

"Today, only about half of Kentucky's households use broadband Internet service, and nearly one-quarter can't access broadband at all," Gov. Beshear said. "We're going to fix that with an ambitious plan to extend broadband access at world class speed, with a special focus on eastern Kentucky."

The state is seeking private partners to build, operate and maintain this statewide network that will break down geographic and financial barriers to education, economic development and healthcare delivery. Should a public-private partnership be established, the state will be able to leverage the expertise of the private sector and the buying power of the state.



"Access to high speed fiber will put Kentucky on the map, so to speak. It will change perceptions that many may have about

Kentucky," said Sec. Lori H. Flanery.

"All Kentuckians will be able to compete for jobs, create businesses, connect to higher education opportunities and much more. We will be connected with the world, allowing all of us to truly participate in today's global environment," she said.

Additionally, Sec. Flanery and her management team have been to Washington, DC to meet with commissioners with the Federal Communications Commission on potential changes in the eRate and Connect America Fund, which could ultimately affect projects around the nation.



"The NGKIH is exciting for Kentucky," said Sec. Flanery. "I also think we are in a position to affect changes throughout the nation for areas, like many of those in Kentucky, that do not have high-speed Internet or have limited service."

The push for reliable, accessible high-speed broadband is one recommendation that emerged from "SOAR," the "Shaping Our Appalachian Region" initiative that seeks to move Kentucky's Appalachian region forward.

Intimately involved are staff from the Commonwealth Office of Technology, Office of Broadband Outreach, Office of Procurement Services, Office of General Counsel along with Sec. Flanery and Dep. Secretaries Steve Rucker and Robin Kinney. This team is also working closely with the Center for Rural Development in Somerset, as well as many other agencies and local and federal government partners.

Gov. Signs Budget Reduction Orders **to Manage 2014 Year-end** **Revenue Shortfalls**

Gov. Steve Beshear signed a budget reduction order for Fiscal Year 2014 to fill a \$91 million General Fund budget deficit.

The budget enacted by the General Assembly includes a General Fund Budget Reduction Plan that authorizes the Governor to manage a revenue shortfall in the 2012-2014 budget biennium.



"We were somewhat limited in our approach to fill this budget hole given it occurred at the end of the 2014 Fiscal Year," Gov. Beshear said. "But as in previous reductions, two goals guided our decisions – to take steps to make government as efficient and as lean as possible, and to protect as best we can the core services that offer help and hope to our people and represent important long-term investments in Kentucky's future: education, health care and public safety."

The Governor's reduction order uses excess funds that are surplus to the budgets of state agencies; year-end, unexpended General Funds in the operating budgets of state agencies; and money from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund to fill the revenue gap.

A Look at Laws That Took Effect This Week



While some laws passed in this year's general assembly went into effect immediately if they had an emergency clause, most went into effect on Tuesday, July 15. Following are some highlights of the new laws (excerpted from the Lexington Herald Leader). If you did not follow the session closely, you may find the information below interesting/helpful:

Crime and safety

HB 128: Anyone who has been granted an emergency protective or domestic violence order will be allowed to receive a provisional concealed carry permit in one business day.

HB 69: It will be a Class D felony to possess a "tax zapper," a device that could be used on a computerized cash register to help a retailer hide sales subject to tax from tax collectors.

SB 225: The state's voyeurism laws will be updated to outlaw a practice called "up-skirting," in which a cellphone is used to take pictures underneath a woman's skirt without her consent.

SB 20: October will be designated Anti-Bullying Month. A purple and yellow ribbon will be designated as the symbol for anti-bullying awareness.

Health care

SB 98: Adult care employers will be able to check a new adult abuse registry to see if prospective employees have a history of substantiated adult abuse, neglect or exploitation.
diabetic students with insulin administration.

SB 7: Advance practice registered nurses will have broader authority to write prescriptions.

HB 98: School staff can be trained by health professionals to assist

Transportation

HB 260: To get from one ATV trail to another, an operator of an ATV who is 16 or older will be allowed to cross a public roadway without protective headgear if the speed limit is 45 miles per hour or less.

SB 66: Known as the "Boater Freedom Act," this law will require boating enforcement officers to have a reasonable suspicion of violation of the state's boating laws before boarding and inspecting a boat on state waterways.

HB 90: Parents or guardians will be required to make a court appearance when their children who are younger than 18 are cited for a driving traffic violation.

Consumers

HB 232: Businesses must notify consumers if a security breach might have resulted in the unauthorized acquisition of the consumers' personal or financial information.

Budget Shortfall, cont'd from Pg. 1

The Governor avoided using "carry forward" funds that are budgeted for spending in Fiscal Year 2015.

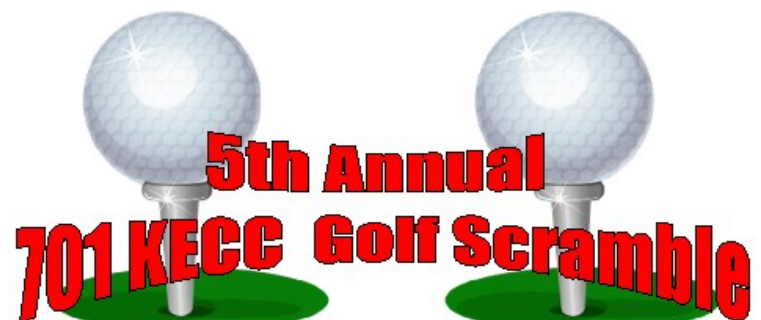
The governor's order includes transferring \$50 million from various state agency funds that are in excess of budgeted amounts. Nearly \$15 million will come from unspent General Fund appropriations that are expected to lapse to the General Fund in excess of the amount budgeted.

General Fund appropriations in executive branch agencies' operating budgets will be reduced by \$3 million, including participating constitutional offices. Additionally, \$1.5 million will come from the judicial branch and \$287,600 will come from the legislative branch.

The governor will use \$21.2 million from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund. After this reduction, the Rainy Day Fund will have a \$77.1 million balance. The Rainy Day Fund is also the sole source of financing for authorized but unbudgeted necessary government expenses in Fiscal Year 2015.

Gov. Beshear also signed a budget reduction order for the 2012-2014 Road Fund to fill a \$22.2 million shortfall. The two budget reduction documents can be viewed at www.osbd.ky.gov.

[Click Here](#) to register for the KECC Golf Scramble.



Friday, August 1st, 2014 @ Juniper Hills Golf Course.

The fun will begin at 11:30 AM

Entry Fee- \$35.00

4 Per team

Contests

Prizes

Games

Food

Please Contact Darnell Owens or Chelsie Stoker for more information. To submit Your registration form E-mail:
Darnell.Owens@ky.gov OR Chelsie.Stoker@ky.gov

Home Canning Lunch & Learn

Preserving the Harvest



Many Kentuckians find themselves smack dab in the middle of the summer gardening season, with green beans and zucchini coming out their ears! If that's you, learn how to save the bounty with the Home Canning Lunch & Learn class sponsored by the State Office Building Green Team. If you're a home gardener, you're interested in protecting your family from harmful chemicals and food additives, or you're looking for a more economical way to feed your family, then this class is for you. Everyone's welcome to attend this informative presentation as Joan Martin, Anderson County Extension Agent and Tamera Thomas, Franklin County Extension Agent share timely tips and info on the basics of home canning and food preservation safety.

You don't want to miss this opportunity!

Details:

Wednesday, July 24th, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
State Office Building, Auditorium Rooms A1/A2

You are welcome to bring your brown bag lunch, or pizza will be available for purchase from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm while supplies last – two slices of pizza and a soft drink or bottled water for \$4.

Proceeds go toward DOR/Personnel Green Team projects.

Door prizes will be drawn at the half-way mark and at the end of the presentation—must be present to win.

Speakers Include:



Joan Martin, Anderson County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Joan earned a M.S. in Child Development and Family Relationships at Brigham Young University and a B.S. in Home Economics from Florida State University. Joan has been a Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service since 2001. Joan's focus is to help individuals and families have healthy lives and healthy relationships. Joan believes that nutrition and increased activity are an important part of healthy living and are essential in developing and maintaining a happy life. Joan coordinates and teaches programs which include the Plate It Up Kentucky nutrition and cooking classes, Nurturing Parenting Skills, ACT Raising Safe Kids program, Relationship Smarts Plus 3.0, Your Money Personality, Where Does Your Money Go?, food preservation classes, and 2S outdoor activities for people of all ages. Joan is a resident of Lawrenceburg, KY.



Tamera Thomas, Franklin County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Tamera holds a B.S. degree in sociology and a minor in public administration from Kentucky State University and a M.S. degree in Family Studies from the School of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Kentucky. After retiring from KSU in 2006, Tamera was hired by the University of Kentucky to serve as the Franklin County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences. In this position Tamera offers classes, workshops, and seminars that help improve the quality of life of children and adults from all socio-economic backgrounds. These classes include financial literacy, nutrition, health, parenting, diabetes, etc.